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ANNUAL REPORTS.

OF THE

Schools in the City of Concord,

TOGETHER WITH THE

MAYOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

For the year 1878.



CONCORD :

PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

1878.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

There has been no marked change in our schools during the past year, for the better or for the worse. The usual work has been performed in about the usual manner, as will be shown by the following report from the districts :

DISTRICT No. 1.

This school has been instructed during the past year by two very successful teachers. It is quite large, and contains some very fine scholars. The summer term was taught by Miss M. A. Abbott. She is well adapted to her calling, has had much experience in teaching, and possesses a capacity to govern as well as to instruct. The winter term was under the instruction of Mr. Charles M. Sargent. It was found early in the term that he also had a *capacity* to govern, and it is understood that an appreciation of his labors has been manifested by an invitation to continue his services. The school appeared well when visited, and the examinations were all satisfactory. R.

DISTRICT No. 2.

The summer term was taught by Miss Clara B. Ford. This was her second engagement with this district, and her services again gave good satisfaction. She was succeeded

in a fall term, after a very short vacation, by Miss Ida A. Morrison. The short vacation, and the past experience of the teacher, soon put the school into good working order, and during the term the parents seemed well pleased with her manner of teaching. At the closing of both terms the scholars stood the test of a rigid examination in a manner that gave themselves much credit. R.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Both terms were taught by Miss Maria Carter. In this school many of the pupils are quite small, yet they made good improvement. The employment of Miss Carter for the second term was much to her credit, and she may well be called a successful teacher. The examinations were witnessed by a good number of parents and friends. R.

DISTRICT No. 5.

The summer term was taught by Miss Ella M. Kilburn, a young teacher, without any previous experience. At the beginning of the term, circumstances beyond her control placed her in a very trying position. However, a few of the larger scholars left the school, and those that remained, being quite small, did themselves much credit on examination day.

The winter term was again under the charge of Miss M. A. Abbott. The school contained a number of large and advanced scholars, several coming in from the adjoining districts. On examination the committee found good order, good recitations, and a good number of parents and friends. R.

DISTRICT No. 6.

This school has sustained its former good reputation during the year. The summer term was taught by Miss Fannie M. Nutter, a graduate of the Concord high school.

This was her first attempt at teaching. The fall term was taught by Miss Clara A. Smith. The schools appeared well when visited, and the closing exercises were very satisfactory.

R.

DISTRICT No. 7.

The first term in this district was taught by Miss Clara L. Wyman, who, in this her first school, used her best endeavors to merit the support of the district. Her methods of discipline and instruction were good, and the term's work, so far as it could be judged by an examination of the school, was fairly entitled to be considered successful.

The next term was taught by Miss Carrie E. Cummings, whose attention was largely occupied in efforts to secure obedience and order; but of the general progress of the children it is difficult to speak, as the committee was prevented from attending the examination by a misunderstanding as to the time it was to be held.

The school was closed by a short term of six weeks under the charge of Mr. Orren E. Kingsbury, who discharged his duty faithfully and well.

The results in this district, owing to an unfortunate division of opinions, have not been so satisfactory as heretofore, each teacher in turn having lacked to some degree the cordial support of all the parents of the children, and having felt also that this support was in many cases granted or withheld from other considerations than a view to the best interests of the scholars and the prosperity of the school.

F.

DISTRICT No. 8.

The teachers in this district, Miss Catlena Gilliland and Miss Abbie A. Flint, had each taught the same school before. The usual round of patient instruction has been accomplished here without interruption. The register of the district shows more than the usual number of visits by the prudential committee and others. Nothing can have a more

quickening effect on the minds of children than these visits during the progress of the term, and it is earnestly to be wished that the practice of making them were general. It not unfrequently happens that a term of ten weeks in a district school is unbroken by a single visit on the part of any resident of the district. F.

DISTRICT No. 12.

Grammar School. Miss Locke has been employed as the teacher of this school during the past three years. She has proved herself to be an able teacher, and worthy of the confidence of her pupils and the district. The condition of the school has been very satisfactory.

Primary School. When Miss Hodge began her work at the commencement of the year, she had earned a good reputation in a smaller school of larger pupils. She has now earned an equally good reputation in a larger school of smaller pupils. She has done well in the important but sometimes discouraging work of teaching small children. B.

DISTRICT No. 13.

This district has been unfortunate in not being able to secure one good teacher for several successive terms. It has had many good teachers, six different persons having been employed in the past two years. But six teachers, or twice six, could not do so good service as one good teacher employed permanently.

Miss Coombs has had much experience in teaching, and is worthy to be employed in a school of higher order.

Miss Pickard manifested a good degree of resolution in teaching and governing.

Miss Morse appeared to be well qualified to instruct. There was need of a more hearty and general coöperation on the part of the pupils. B.

DISTRICT No. 14.

In the summer, Miss Kendall did her first work in the school-room. It was done well enough to be the beginning of much pleasant and successful labor. She seemed to understand from the first how to govern and how to teach, and performed her work in the most satisfactory manner during the year. The pupils were very ready to coöperate with the teacher, and deserve credit for their good conduct.

B.

DISTRICT No. 15.

Miss Bachelder was a beginner, and very recently a pupil in this school; yet under these circumstances, which are sometimes unfavorable, she succeeded well in her undertaking. The school was always in good order when visited, and the pupils appeared to be engaged industriously in their proper work.

B.

DISTRICT No. 16.

This district is still without a school-house. The school consists of three small scholars, who have been taught in an upper room of a private house, as the previous year. Their teacher was Mrs. Abbie Maxam. These children, though without school conveniences, have been industrious, and are steadily gaining ground.

F.

DISTRICT No. 18.

This district has again been fortunate in its selection of a teacher, and in retaining her in service during the entire year. There have been three terms under the charge of Miss Flora E. Campbell. The children made good and intelligent progress. It was especially noticed that those who recited in the flowing periods of the books were questioned as to the meaning of their words, and that in all the exercises the pupils were taught to consider principles and ideas, and not mere words, as essential.

F.

DISTRICT No. 22.

Miss Buxton began the work of teaching with a small school in a large school-room, yet she appeared to make her school very pleasant, and did as good a work as could be expected of almost any teacher in the very short term of six weeks.

Mr. Brown has taught this school two winters in succession. He is a laborious teacher, and is worthy of continued confidence.

B.

DISTRICT No. 23.

This is a school without a school-house or maps. Four small scholars have been taught, in a private house, by Miss Ada M. Parkinson, and a short term of seven weeks has been well employed by a patient drill in the rudiments of knowledge.

F.

DISTRICT No. 24.

The summer and winter terms of this school were taught respectively by Miss Effie A. Blake and Harvey L. Boutwell. The pupils here have been, in the main, orderly and industrious, and presented an excellent appearance at the close of the year. The registers disclose, however, an unusual amount of tardiness and absence, the remedy for which lies rather in the power of the parents of the children than in that of their teacher.

F.

We append in a tabular form the statistics required by law, concerning the schools under our charge.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of District.	Terms.	TEACHERS.	Number of Weeks.	Number of Scholars.	Number in Arithmetic.	Number in Reading.	Number in Spelling.	Number in Penmanship.	Number in Geography.	Number in Grammar.	Number in Composition.	Number in History.	Number in Physiology.	Number in Algebra.	Number between 5 and 15 not attending any school.
1	1	M. A. Abbott.....	10	18	11	18	18	10	7	2	..	..	..	..	..
	2	Charles M. Sargent.....	12	23	14	23	23	15	5	3	..	..	..	..	..
2	1	Clara B. Ford.....	8	19	11	17	17	9	5	2	2	..	..	..	..
	2	Ida A. Morrison.....	10	17	13	17	17	9	6	2	2	..	..	..	..
4	1	Maria Carter.....	8	11	7	11	11	5	2	1	..	..	1	1	..
	2	Maria Carter.....	11	12	9	12	12	6	2	3	..	1	..	..	..
5	1	Ella M. Kilburn.....	8	5	2	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2	M. A. Abbott.....	10	12	10	12	12	9	5	4	..	..	..	..	..
6	1	Fannie M. Nutter.....	10	7	5	5	7	4	3	2	..	..	..	..	..
	2	Clara A. Smith.....	12	8	6	8	8	5	2	3	..	..	..	..	..
7	1	Clara L. Wyman.....	10	15	12	15	15	15	12	..	..	2	..	..	4
	2	Carrie E. Cummings.....	10	17	13	17	17	13	13	..	..	2	..	..	4
3	1	Orren E. Kingsbury.....	6	15	15	14	14	13	8	4	..	..	..	..	7
8	1	Catlena Gilliland.....	10	12	9	12	12	12	7	3	..	..	..	..	..
	2	Abby A. Flint.....	16	13	13	13	13	9	8	8	8	..	..	..	..
GRAMMAR SCHOOL.															
1		Ada F. Locke.....	9	35	34	35	35	30	34	17	3	3	..	2	..
2		Ada F. Locke.....	8	32	30	32	32	23	17	15	2	..	..	3	..
3		Ada F. Locke.....	9	40	36	40	40	35	18	19	..	..	1	3	..
PRIMARY SCHOOL.															
12	1	Annie E. Hodge.....	9	48	27	48	48	16	11	..	..	..	..	..	2
	2	Annie E. Hodge.....	8	49	30	49	49	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	2
3		Annie E. Hodge.....	9	41	41	19	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
13	1	Mary L. Coombs.....	9	19	12	19	19	9	9	6	..	..	..	1	1
	2	Louise M. Pickard.....	10	20	13	20	20	10	8	6	..	..	..	1	..
3		Lucy F. Morse.....	9	21	15	21	21	10	6	9	..	1	..	2	..
14	1	Sarah H. Kendall.....	8	16	13	16	16	13	1	6	..	..	1	..	..
	2	Sarah H. Kendall.....	12	18	15	18	18	15	4	6	..	3	..	..	..
15	1	Mary R. Bachelder.....	8	12	11	12	12	11	10	1	..	1	..	..	5
	2	Mary R. Bachelder.....	17	12	11	12	12	11	10	2	..	..	..	..	..
16	1	Abbie Maxam.....	14	3	2	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
18	1	Flora E. Campbell.....	10	18	17	16	16	16	16	3	..	3	..	..	2
	2	Flora E. Campbell.....	10	19	14	17	17	13	13	6	..	4	..	1	..
3		Flora E. Campbell.....	3	19	17	16	16	16	16	3	..	3	..	..	..
22	1	Carrie E. Buxton.....	6	13	12	13	13	13	3	6	..	..	..	..	4
	2	William H. Brown.....	11	27	25	27	27	10	6	4	..	1	..	..	6
23	1	Ada M. Parkinson.....	7	4	2	4	4	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
24	1	Effie A. Blake.....	8	12	9	12	11	8	7	2	..	..	..	..	3
	2	Harvey L. Boutwell.....	19	17	14	17	16	10	9	6	3	..	..	..	..

A. BURNHAM,
ABIAL ROLFE,
WM. W. FLINT,
Superintending School Committee.

REPORT OF DISTRICT NO. 3,

MARCH 23, 1878.

During the past year the schools in this district have been in session thirty weeks. There has been but little change in the usual order of things, with the exception that the school year has been lengthened three weeks, and that during the fall term the Primary and Intermediate departments were combined, and placed under the charge of one teacher.

Miss Bertha P. Humphrey taught the Primary school two terms, spring and winter. The attendance in this department was full and very regular, the department excellent, and the progress in studies commendable. Miss Humphrey, though a beginner, has succeeded well in her efforts.

The Intermediate department, under the charge of Miss Lizzie M. Chase, presents a good record. The crowding of two schools into one during the fall term necessarily had its drawbacks. Faithful labor, however, accomplished gratifying results. The attendance for the spring term was full, and the irregularities few. The attendance during the fall and winter terms was not so regular. The scholars generally in this department showed that they had an intelligent comprehension of the studies in which they were engaged.

Mr. Thomas B. Richardson, the teacher of the Grammar school, has been obliged to contend with the very serious

difficulty of irregularity of attendance on the part of his pupils. This irregularity was caused in some instances by sickness, in others by the necessity laid upon the scholars to engage in manual labor. As to the rest, no good reasons can be assigned. Mr. Richardson, however, pushed forward his work with his customary equanimity and interest. The examination of his classes showed thorough acquirements. The recitations in reading, grammar, arithmetic, and geography were listened to with satisfaction. Mr. Richardson spares no pains to make his pupils thoroughly understand the lessons which engage their attention.

Several matters of an encouraging nature should here be mentioned: the generally good deportment, especially in the Primary and Intermediate departments, the interest manifested by the scholars in their studies, the marked improvement in reading, the absence of mere parade on examination day, and, last but not least, the increased number of visitations to the schools made by those interested in their welfare.

While convinced that the schools in this district have not attained to that perfection which they can and ought to reach, we are nevertheless sure that with the hearty coöperation of citizens, parents, teachers, and scholars, they will soon meet all that can reasonably be expected of them.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. COLWELL,
HARRISON PARTRIDGE,
ABIJAH HOLLIS,
BENJA. T. PUTNEY,
PAUL R. HOLDEN,

Superintending Committee.

REPORT OF DISTRICT NO. 20.

In again presenting the report of the schools in our district, we feel called upon to notice some important changes adopted by your committee, occasioned by the loss of our school building about one year ago, and the erection of a new and excellent edifice.

Your committee felt it their duty at the commencement of the schools to adopt strong regulations in regard to the care of our house. It was also thought best to place the various departments under the general supervision of a *principal*, who should be the teacher of the Grammar school; and we are pleased to say that these rules have succeeded admirably.

We have seen no case of injury to the school building. We are also much pleased with the plan of placing all of the departments under the supervision of a principal who exercises a general oversight of all the grades.

Our schools were in session fourteen weeks, being the entire period between the completion of the building and the present day.

At the commencement, the pupils were somewhat unaccustomed to school duties, occasioned by the long interval between our last session and the present; but the teachers soon overcame this tendency to uneasiness, and have moved in good order since.

We are pleased to say that no cases of dispute or insubordination have been brought before the committee.

Your committee can truly say, that they are perfectly satisfied with the condition of our schools after so short a session during the school year. Another matter of congratulation is the increased number of visits made during the term, and at the closing exercises, by parents and citizens; and we hope this interest in our public schools will increase in future years.

Mr. Warren Abbott has occupied the position of principal, and has had charge of the Grammar school. Mr. Abbott has had much experience in teaching, and has had charge of this school in former years; and we will only say that he has more than sustained his former reputation as a teacher.

The Intermediate school was under the charge of Miss Ellen K. Abbott. Her long service as a teacher was a guaranty of success. She has labored with her usual good results, and we would especially commend her method of imparting practical knowledge to her pupils.

The First Primary school was under the charge of Miss Carrie E. Pearson, this being her first connection with the schools of this district. She has labored earnestly, and with excellent results.

The Second Primary school was under the charge of Miss Lizzie E. Rolfe, who has long been identified with this department, and her long term of service will speak better than we of the worth of her services.

TABLE OF ATTENDANCE.

SCHOOL.	TEACHER.	Number of weeks of school.	Whole number of scholars.	Average attendance.
Second Primary.....	Lizzie E. Rolfe.....	14	59	52
First Primary	Carrie E. Pearson.....	14	45	40
Intermediate	Ellen K. Abbott.....	14	39	33
Grammar.....	Warren Abbott.....	14	45	40
Total,			188	165

JOHN B. DODGE,
ABIAL ROLFE,
FRANK A. ABBOTT,

Superintending Committee Dist. No. 20.



NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The Board of Education respectfully presents its nineteenth annual report.

Since education is superior to all other mere earthly good, is not affected by the rise and fall of stocks, or by any of the thousand and one changes incident to all other earthly possessions, is a vast yet compact estate beyond the reach of thieves or the power of decay, increasing by use, and may be eternal, we cannot expect justly to compass it by any ordinary standard of measurement. Since our common schools are the chief instrumentalities for educating the masses, and are the foundation of our republican institutions, furnishing to nine tenths of the population all their preparation for the faithful performance of their duties as citizens, they cannot be fostered with too jealous care. Every citizen has a special interest in their establishment and adequate support. All readily acknowledge

the value of education to themselves, and believe their own to be amply worth all the money, time, and toil it cost them; but they may not as readily acknowledge the responsibility resting upon them to aid in promoting knowledge and morality in the interest of those yet to come upon the stage of action.

Education is; as has been beautifully expressed, "a debt due from present to future generations," and it is a question of the first moment to what extent and in what way this obligation shall be met.

It is not surprising that a matter of such special interest to every member of a community, left to the control and guidance of a committee of its own choice, should be discussed and criticised as to its management and expenditures. This discussion in this community develops, we trust, no disposition to repudiate the obligation to give vigor and efficiency to our schools. It calls for the practice of judicious economy in their management, without any design of insisting upon curtailments which would diminish their force. If the expense per scholar in our schools be compared with that in other places, it will be found considerably less than in other cities similarly situated and of similar size in New England.

In Chelsea, Mass., the expense per capita is \$18.78; Fitchburg, \$16.40; Newton, \$29.14; Burlington, Vt., \$19; Nashua, \$17.11; Manchester, \$18.79; while in Concord it is but \$15.32. It costs in our schools only about eight cents per day to furnish each pupil with instruction. It would be extremely difficult to suggest any other plan by which they could receive instruction in as good schools as ours are at less cost.

We are all too conscious of the long depression in business, and the call for retrenchment in all reasonable ways; yet the question suggests itself, whether or not the disposition to curtail expenses is not more marked in our schools

than in other directions. Is there the same desire to curtail personal conveniences and luxuries? Is there not more affected poverty in meeting the claims of children for the best facilities for storing the mind with useful and permanent learning, than for adorning them with fine raiment, or for furnishing them with temporary amusements? However this may be, it is worthy of a passing thought, that during this dark time in financial matters, when many seem inclined to stand and wait, our children are growing apace, and will very soon get beyond the schools. The boys and girls of to-day are to be the men and women of the near future. Their success then will depend upon our liberality now in affording them the opportunity for development, which is their birthright.

ATTENDANCE.

The total number of pupils enrolled, the average monthly enrolment, the average attendance, and the number of cases of tardiness in each school, are presented in the following table and accompanying comparative statistics :

table and accompanying comparative statistics :

2

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXX, XXXXX

XXXXXX, XXXXX, XXXXX

TABLE OF ATTENDANCE.

SCHOOLS.	Whole number attending during the year.			Number attending, less promotions and transfers.			Average monthly enrollment.	Average attendance for the year.	Per cent. of attendance based on the monthly enrollment.	Cases of tardiness.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.				
High School.....	83	98	181	72	82	154	124	120	97	80
GRAMMAR.										
Walker.....	16	19	35	14	10	24	21	18	90	3
Merrimack, 1st.....	33	36	69	27	30	57	44	42	93	13
Merrimack, 2d.....	40	33	73	26	22	48	44	40	88	34
Centre, 1st.....	34	35	69	27	27	54	43	39	90	67
Centre, 2d.....	31	49	80	22	38	60	50	48	96	42
Rumford, 1st.....	31	24	55	27	18	45	33	32	97	28
Rumford, 2d.....	45	34	79	35	27	62	48	45	94	42
Penacook, 1st.....	32	24	56	17	17	34	26	24	92	13
Penacook, 2d.....	46	39	85	25	22	47	37	35	95	11
	308	293	601	220	211	431	346	323	93	253
INTERMEDIATE.										
Walker.....	42	26	68	31	22	53	42	38	90	40
Merrimack.....	41	39	80	32	28	60	47	42	89	43
Centre.....	36	49	85	26	29	55	49	44	90	48
Spring Street.....	42	30	72	29	23	52	45	42	93	15
Rumford.....	42	46	88	27	25	52	46	41	90	32
Penacook.....	55	50	105	29	28	57	47	42	89	35
	258	240	498	174	155	329	276	249	90	213
PRIMARY.										
Walker, 1st.....	39	28	67	36	17	47	36	31	86	63
Walker, 2d.....	49	36	85	34	28	62	48	37	77	53
Franklin Street.....	52	40	92	43	33	76	58	51	88	13
Merrimack.....	30	40	70	27	34	61	43	41	95	37
Union Street, 1st.....	31	28	59	20	21	41	34	31	90	91
Union Street, 2d.....	38	25	63	29	10	39	34	30	90	63
Centre.....	40	40	80	27	32	59	50	45	90	46
Spring Street.....	47	30	77	34	21	55	46	42	91	46
Myrtle Street, 1st.....	37	44	81	26	32	58	51	45	90	152
Myrtle Street, 2d.....	41	35	76	30	22	52	46	40	81	71
Rumford.....	46	58	104	35	41	76	63	59	93	71
Penacook.....	46	51	97	26	33	59	62	56	90	23
Fair Ground.....	47	35	82	31	25	56	52	43	82	41
	543	490	1033	392	349	741	623	551	88	770
MIXED.										
Plains.....	12	16	28	9	10	19	18	16	90	10
Bow Brook.....	32	33	65	23	26	49	45	40	90	148
	44	49	93	32	36	68	63	57	90	158
	1236	1170	2406	890	833	1723	1432	1300	91	1474

PUPILS.

Whole number attending, less promotions and transfers :

	1876-7		1877-8	
	BOYS.	GIRLS.	BOYS.	GIRLS.
High school.....	67	93	72	82
Grammar schools.....	220	209	220	211
Intermediate schools.....	175	157	174	155
Primary schools.....	376	347	392	349
Mixed schools.....	40	42	32	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	878	848	890	833
Total.....	1726		1723	

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE.

	1876-7	1877-8
High school.....	132	120
Grammar schools.....	326	323
Intermediate schools.....	246	249
Primary schools.....	577	551
Mixed schools.....	59	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1340	1300
Per cent. of punctual attendance.....	90.7	91
Number of tardinesses.....	1577	1474
Average for each pupil in attendance for the year, .91		.86

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PUPILS TO A TEACHER.

	1876-7	1877-8
High school.....	40	39
Grammar schools.....	48	48
Intermediate schools.....	54	55
Primary schools.....	56	57

LIST OF TEACHERS.

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>First Term.</i>	<i>Second Term.</i>	<i>Third Term.</i>
High.....	John L. Stanley. Laura Carlton. Robert A. Ray. Sarah E. Bradley.	John L. Stanley. Laura Carlton. Robert A. Ray. Anna L. Savil.	John L. Stanley. Laura Carlton. Robert A. Ray. Anna L. Savil.
GRAMMAR.			
Walker.....	Mary S. Stubbs.	Mary S. Stubbs.	Mary S. Stubbs.
Merrimack, 1st..	Abbie C. Cochran.	Abbie C. Cochran.	Abbie C. Cochran.
Merrimack, 2d..	Ellen A. Folger.	Ellen A. Folger.	Ellen A. Folger.
Centre, 1st.....	M. W. Haley.	M. W. Haley.	M. W. Haley.
Centre, 2d.....	Kate P. Blodgett.	Kate P. Blodgett.	Kate P. Blodgett.
Rumford, 1st...	Josephine E. Hodgdon.	Josephine E. Hodgdon.	Josephine E. Hodgdon.
Rumford, 2d....	Ida B. Clark.	Ida B. Clark.	Ida B. Clark.
Penacook, 1st...	Pauline L. Bowen.	Pauline L. Bowen.	Pauline L. Bowen.
Penacook, 2d....	M. J. Young.	M. J. Young.	M. J. Young.
INTERMEDIATE.			
Walker.....	Adelaide S. Hill.	Sarah F. Ballard.	Sarah F. Ballard.
Merrimack.....	Alice M. Hill.	Cordelia A. Sanborn.	Mary C. Fellows.
Centre.....	Isabelle F. Nutter.	Isabelle F. Nutter.	{ Celia L. Garland. Mrs. W. K. McFarland.
Spring street...	Mary L. Merrill.	Mary L. Merrill.	Mary L. Merrill.
Rumford.....	Charlotte A. Thompson.	Charlotte A. Thompson.	Charlotte A. Thompson.
Penacook.....	Mary A. Clement.	Mary A. Clement.	Cordelia A. Sanborn.
PRIMARY.			
Walker, 1st....	Sarah F. Ballard.	Annie J. Newton.	Annie J. Newton.
Walker, 2d.....	Lizzie A. Palmer.	Lizzie A. Palmer.	Lizzie A. Palmer.
Franklin.....	Fanny E. Dunlap.	Fanny E. Dunlap.	Fanny E. Dunlap.
Merrimack.....	Mary L. Prescott.	{ Abby F. Bosworth. Mrs. W. K. McFarland.	Abby F. Bosworth.
Union, 1st.....	Susan R. Moulton.	Susan R. Moulton.	{ Ida Morrison. Susan R. Moulton.
Union, 2d.....	Abby F. Bosworth.	Alice T. Couch.	Alice T. Couch.
Centre.....	Melvina D. Nutter.	Melvina D. Nutter.	Melvina D. Nutter.
Spring street...	Amelia W. Gordon.	Amelia W. Gordon.	Amelia W. Gordon.
Myrtle st., 1st...	Belle E. Mower.	Mary E. Cook.	Clara A. Haley.
Myrtle st., 2d...	Annie M. Osgood.	Annie M. Osgood.	Annie M. Osgood.
Rumford.....	Fannie J. Hayes.	Clara A. Haley.	Flora E. Campbell.
Penacook.....	Hannah E. Bell.	Hannah E. Bell.	Hannah E. Bell.
Fair Ground....	H. M. Farnsworth.	H. M. Farnsworth.	H. M. Farnsworth.
MIXED.			
Pine Plains....	Alice T. Couch.	Nettie B. Rand.	
Bow Brook.....	Etta F. Smythe.	Etta F. Smythe.	Etta F. Smythe.
SPECIAL.			
Music.....	John Jackman.	John Jackman.	John Jackman.
Drawing.....	Ada L. Cone.	Ada L. Cone.	Ada L. Cone.

TEXT-BOOKS.

The only change determined upon in text-books was in the series of Readers. These are to be introduced as the classes through promotion may need them. Up to the present time about one half of the classes are supplied, and the others will use them upon being advanced. The time allowed by the publishers was quite favorable for gradual introduction, and will cause no additional outlay on the part of parents.

CHANGE.

The mixed school upon the Plain was much reduced in number at the close of the fall term, with no probability of an increase during the winter. As it was believed to be for the interest of all pupils in the Grammar grades attending this school to avail themselves of thorough class drill in some one of the schools upon this side of the river, it was thought best to discontinue that school through the winter. If all pupils in the vicinity had attended, there would have been less than a dozen. It is without doubt for the interest of the district and of the inhabitants there to have a school during the spring and fall terms for pupils in the lower grades, and permit and encourage all others to attend the graded schools. We have reason to believe such an arrangement will give entire satisfaction to those most interested.

EXAMINATIONS.

Written reviews and examinations, in all the Intermediate, Grammar, and High School grades, have been continued as heretofore, and with equally good results. Though this written work requires a great deal of care, and imposes considerable extra labor upon teachers, they would be unwilling to dispense with it. Examination of the papers generally evidences an advance in accuracy and skill of arrangement and expression in most of our schools. A few

betray a careless yet vigorous way of answering the questions in the fewest words, or solving problems with the fewest figures. All give the impression of an effort on the part of teachers to secure, as far as possible, an active, prompt, thinking, self-reliant class, rather than a high percentage.

COURSE OF STUDY.

The only change of any importance during the year was the combining of Written and Mental Arithmetic in the Intermediate and lower Grammar grade in one exercise. So far it is believed by the teachers to be quite successful. Our course of study is sometimes criticised as being too hard. The opinion must be founded upon something beside a careful estimate of its requirements. We are fully satisfied, from close observation, that the pupil of average ability and ordinary application can thoroughly master it within the limits of school hours. That there is home study, it is useless to deny; that it is necessary, is a mistake.

HIGH SCHOOL.

As long as this school is conducted by teachers so enthusiastic and ambitious to excel in the line of true educational excellence, is furnished with pupils of sufficient maturity of mind and preparation to enter upon and comprehend the higher and more abstruse studies, able to go alone without aid from stronger associates, or helping, coaxing, and urging by teachers, and is fostered by a generous and appreciative public, it must continue to increase in strength and vigor.

LIST OF GRADUATES.

English Course.

Jennie M. Clough,
Almina H. Quimby,
Charlotte J. Lewis,
Elvira R. Webster,

Arthur F. Shepard,
Phenia E. Rounsefell,
Sabrina B. Greene.

Academic Course.

Jennie L. Stevens,	Cora F. Davis,
Abbie J. Davis,	Lizzie M. Sylvester,
Laura A. Smith,	Etta A. Kimball,
Mary E. Melifant,	Arthur C. Stewart,
Carrie E. Dow,	Mary A. Gage,
Frederick C. Thompson,	Susan A. Drew.

Classical Course.

Frank W. Gage,	Eliphalet F. Philbrick.
John B. Abbott,	

MUSIC AND DRAWING.

The special teacher of music has, as heretofore, given ten lessons a term to each of our schools below the High school. The increased care bestowed upon the lower classes is especially quite marked in quickening the ear and training the voice.

The teacher in drawing has continued her direct instruction to teachers of all grades below the High school, has visited all the schools about four times each term to observe and correct deficiencies and make suggestions, and has given personal instruction in the High school weekly, embracing all the classes of the same.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The report of the Financial Agent shows the amount of receipts for the support of our schools the last year to be \$22,591.01. The same report shows that the expenditures for the past year have been \$21,948.66.

SUPERINTENDENT.

At the commencement of the present school-year, Daniel C. Allen, in a meeting of the full Board, was unanimously reëlected Superintendent of our schools; and the Board takes pleasure in bearing testimony to the faithfulness and

efficiency of Mr. Allen, and cheerfully accord to him a large share of credit for the improvement and elevation of our schools to their present reputable standard. His untiring zeal, fertile invention, and intelligent and timely suggestions have nearly obliterated the old time-worn ruts, and substituted broader and more practical methods of instruction, adapted to stimulate individual thought and investigation. The fruits of this labor are already apparent among the teachers and pupils, and cannot fail to be very marked in the future.

In conclusion, we herewith subjoin the report of the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Gentlemen of the Board of Education :

I respectfully submit my fourth annual report. You will expect me to speak very briefly of the condition of your schools, by grades, and make such suggestions as I may think their interests require.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The schools of this grade will, as a whole, compare very favorably with their condition last year. It must have become manifest to you, however, that there is a wider difference between them in excellence than is found in any of the grades above. This cannot be attributed entirely to disparity in accommodations, surroundings, numbers in attendance, defective grading, or general lack of ability of pupils.

It is no injustice to teachers to say Primary classes are not generally as well and thoroughly taught as those more

advanced. It is confessedly the weakest point in the whole system of public education. It is difficult to find teachers thoroughly grounded in the first principles of knowledge, possessed of the happy faculty of making every school exercise attractive, a special fondness for the little ones, and an abiding conviction that in directing the first efforts of mind and making first impressions upon it they are performing a more important, a more difficult, and a higher grade of useful labor than is called for in more advanced stages of education. The personal character of the teacher is more directly felt in these schools. They require teachers whose deportment is gentle, dignified, and uniform, who are accustomed to self-control, are kind and affectionate in disposition, and have the power to impress their own pure minds and hearts upon their pupils.

These schools are the foundation of the whole system of public instruction. Defects permitted there, cling to pupils and retard their progress in subsequent school experience, and even through life. They cannot be too carefully guarded or too firmly strengthened.

If the maximum attendance at these schools be limited to about fifty, giving a daily average of about forty-five, they would then be as large as any teacher could successfully instruct and discipline.

The time of admission to the lowest grade should be limited to the commencement of the school-year following the pupils arriving at school age. The present practice is to admit at any time during the year. The result is two or three divisions of the lowest grade, each reciting separately, and having a very limited time. Ordinary children, with no previous preparation, cannot be expected to be fitted for advancement at the end of the school-year, if they enter at the beginning, or during the second or third term. As a consequence, nearly all find it necessary to remain in the same grade another year, being no further advanced at the close of the second school-year than they would have been

had they attended only the last. The proposed change will admit of a closer grading of the lowest class,—all being required to commence the same work at the same time,—and allow more direct and thorough instruction. The change would probably meet with very little, if any, opposition. Its advantages are too evident. Its disadvantages are few and limited. If a child is sent to school solely to keep it out of the way, or have it cared for, altogether too early for its good both mentally and physically, the change will not find favor with its parents. But if, as I firmly believe, children are sent to school too early in life, it will prove a blessing in discouraging a bad practice, and bringing about a desirable reform. Although this suggestion has been made before to the Board, I have deemed it proper to renew it in this form in order to invite discussion of its merits by those most interested.

The pecuniary distinction made here, as in very many other places, in favor of teachers in the next higher grade, naturally leads the Primary teacher to feel less responsibility, and to consider her position less honorable. It has been thought and said, that anybody can teach a little child: consequently, inexperience, incompetency, and mediocrity seek access to this grade of schools. So many children are gathered here, who do not remain long enough to pass into higher grades, as to make it necessary, in justice to them, to provide the best teaching talent,—talent specially trained with direct reference to the kind of work to be executed. There are such teachers, and it is gratifying to know their number is increasing. If such a teacher, successfully engaged in a Primary school, thinks her position is regarded as less important and less honorable, and is less remunerative, it is quite natural she should desire and work for a position more important and remunerative. Through her discontent she limits her usefulness where she is.

My last suggestion refers to a reasonable supply of cards, tablets, and outline maps, from which to teach objectively

during the early lessons in reading, spelling, numbers, writing, and geography. Besides aiding in imparting instruction, they present new interests and profitable employment to the pupils while in their seats, and thus forestall temptation to idle mischief.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

There have been quite a number of changes of Intermediate teachers, owing to withdrawal and sickness. In fact, only two schools have escaped. In two instances there have been three different teachers employed during the year; in two others, two teachers within a single term. All these changes were desirable, or necessary, I am aware, but they were not less unfortunate on that account. The best of teachers find it no easy or quickly accomplished task to become so familiar with the diverse mental capabilities and dispositions of a large school, as to get them well in hand and profitably at work. The average class rank, and the examinations of each term, show these schools to be in better condition than last year. But I had hoped for greater improvement, and undoubtedly should have been gratified had it not been for the untoward influence mentioned.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

I believe the Grammar schools to be in a more advanced condition than for years. In them faithful, earnest, wide-awake pupils are the many; the dull, careless, and sleepy are the few. The monotonous and uninteresting recitations are enlivened by investigating the subject, and discussing it under judicious direction. A more complete comprehension of the subject is discernable in the term examinations. The continued efforts to eliminate as much of the unimportant matter as possible have aided in this work. It is hard to place any value upon the ability to repeat the hundred rules of arithmetic when the processes are familiar; the numberless fine distinctions and definitions of grammar,

which only confuse and hinder; the mass of details of geography, learned and at once forgotten; or the dates of unimportant historical events;—all such useless weights and hindrances can be cast aside, and our pupils make more thorough and rapid work with the essentials. Perhaps I can in no better way indicate the direct and positive nature of instruction and learning in these schools than by reference to a few facts. In 1874, out of the number of members of Grammar classes examined for the High school, twenty-three per cent. failed to pass, although the percentage required was as low as forty-five. In 1875, thirteen per cent. failed to come up to the standard, which was raised to sixty-five. In 1876, five per cent., and in 1877 two per cent., of the number examined failed to obtain seventy per cent. There was no material difference in the natural ability of these classes. The distinguishing difference was in their preparation for advanced studies through a more thorough drill in the branches of the Grammar school, and the introduction of written reviews and examinations. If they had been fitted by “cramming,” it must have been readily discovered upon their attempting the higher branches; yet at the end of the first term not one of the last class admitted to the High school had failed to hold a fair rank.

There is no reason for believing the forth-coming class inferior in any respects.

HIGH SCHOOL.

It is superfluous for me to say anything regarding the management and progress of the High school. Its prosperous condition is well known to you.

I will venture a single suggestion touching upon the contemplated change in the course of study. May it not be well to abridge the work in numbers by confining it to a review of Commercial Arithmetic, so far as it is possible to pursue it, in direct connection with the study and application of Book-keeping. Very little effort by the teachers would

secure a combination profitable, and eminently practicable. This would afford, if thought best, an opportunity to devote one term to the study and practice of the metric system. Until Government shall require the use of the system, its study in the High school may be sufficient.

WANTS.

Some plan of ventilation, giving promise of success, should be tried at once in one or more of the houses most objectionable in this respect, and further action based upon the result.

The "private walks" in a few cases need to be enlarged, and otherwise made more commodious and accessible. The accommodations now afforded are scarcely consistent with ordinary propriety and delicacy.

The necessity of drainage at some of the houses has long been felt, but the opportunity was wanting. This is now offered through the extension of the city sewers.

PERSONAL.

I have devoted myself exclusively to the interests of the schools,—with what degree of success others must judge. My efforts have generally been cheerfully seconded by the teachers, and you have allowed me full scope for the performance of my duties. You have freely and promptly aided by your counsel and encouragement,—for which I express my gratitude.

D. C. ALLEN.

Respectfully submitted,

ELISHA ADAMS,
OLIVER PILLSBURY,
WARREN CLARK,
HENRY J. CRIPPEN,
A. B. THOMPSON,
P. B. COGSWELL,
S. C. WHITCHER,
JOHN H. GEORGE,
EVERETT L. CONGER.

Concord, March 23, 1878.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
HON. HORACE A. BROWN,
MAYOR.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the City Council :

Standing at the beginning of a municipal year, having taken the oath and assumed the responsibilities of office, it is fitting that we acknowledge the Hand that has guided and the Power that has sustained us in the past, and seek a continuance of the favor and protection of Him without whom all our efforts are vain.

To the people of this city, who have with such unanimity called me to their chief executive office, I desire to express my profound gratitude for this mark of their confidence, and pledge myself to bring to the discharge of the duties of the position whatever of ability and fidelity I may possess, trusting I may be instrumental, in some degree, in advancing the material interests of this entire people.

It is now twenty-five years since the adoption of the city charter, and the organization of the first city government under it, and I congratulate you and the

people upon the good degree of prosperity that has attended us all through this quarter of a century of our municipal existence. Under the successive administrations of its affairs we have had a steady growth and substantial prosperity ; and to-day, I think, no city of its size offers greater attractions in all those particulars that make a town a desirable place of residence. Our geographical position is central ; our facilities for travel, connecting readily with every portion of the State, are as good as the best ; our educational advantages are excellent, affording to all classes superior opportunities for obtaining an education that will qualify them for the various duties and pursuits of life.

Within the last nine or ten years several public enterprises have been inaugurated and completed, which have added largely to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. These, with the heavy debt incurred on account of the late war of the Rebellion, have left upon us a burden of taxation it will require many years to remove. But the sunlight of peace is around us, and, by the exercise of patience, prudence, and economy, we may hope that this burden will be gradually lightened, and all our obligations be honorably met.

In our hands, gentlemen, are placed the vital interests of our city, and what we may do, or leave undone, will affect its welfare in the future. It there-

fore becomes us always to bring to the discharge of our duties, as they may arise, calm deliberation, discretion, and unbiased judgment.

It is provided by the General Statutes relating to cities, that "the mayor shall from time to time communicate to the city council such information and recommend such measures as the interests of the city shall, in his judgment, require."

It will not be expected that I shall bring to your notice very much in detail the various matters that will during the year demand your consideration. A few things, however, require our present attention.

FINANCES.

A statement of the city debt, February 1, 1878, may be seen on pages 56 and 57 of the Annual Report of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending January 31, 1878.

You will, in this statement, note the distinction between the debt of the city at large and the city precinct debt :

The bonded debt of the city, as there shown, is.....	\$200,500.00
Floating debt and outstanding claims.....	15,399.24
<hr/>	
Making a total of.....	\$215,899.24
To which should be added, we think, a liability previously incurred to the Hillsborough & Peterborough Railroad Corporation, omitted in said report, the sum of.....	12,500.00
<hr/>	
Making a total of.....	\$228,399.24

Total liabilities brought forward,.....\$228,399.24

From which we deduct as available assets,—

Cash in the treasury.....	\$2,157.05	
Uncollected taxes.....	40,652.09	
Due from county of Merrimack.....	3,622.81	
Due from abutters on account of sidewalks laid.....	509 11	
From other sources.....	269.00	
Blossom Hill Cemetery.....	4,000.00	
	-----	\$51,210.06

Total debt of the city at large..... 177,189.18

The city precinct debt, the liability of which rests alone upon the city precinct, is as follows :

State-House precinct notes, bearing six per cent. semi-annual interest, amounting to.....	\$49,000.00
Precinct notes, on sewer account, bearing six per cent. interest, payable \$8,000 annually, on and after December 1, 1882.....	40,000.00
City Water-Works bonds.....	350,000.00
Coupons due, but not presented.....	591.00

Total debt of city precinct.....	\$430,591.00
Total debt of city at large.....	177,189.18

Making a grand total.....	\$616,780.18

But it should be observed, that of this amount the Water-Works debt, amounting to \$350,000, will now very nearly, and soon entirely, provide for itself by receipts for water rents, paying all expenses and interest, thus leaving only the balance of \$266,780.18 as the interest-bearing debt of the city and precinct to provide for.

Notwithstanding the large expenditures which the respective city councils of the past few years have

been called upon to make, and the present large indebtedness of the city, it is a source of satisfaction to know that our credit as a municipality has not been impaired. Our city bonds are eagerly sought for permanent investment, and command a premium at least equal to if not higher than those of any other New England city. With a steady purpose that the city indebtedness shall not be increased, and that the strictest economy and honesty in the administration of its affairs shall prevail, we may hope to maintain not only our present financial standing, but gradually and surely extinguish our city debt.

TAXES.

There is a very general desire and expectation that the rate of taxation shall be reduced this year below the rates that have prevailed for several years past. We, of course, share in this desire. But what are the city's liabilities, which must be provided for this year? Eleven thousand dollars of the funded debt falls due and must be met before the first day of April, 1879. The necessary appropriations for the support of schools, for the fire department, for highways and bridges, etc., etc., will aggregate a considerable amount. Our state tax, this year, is the same as last,—\$22,200. The proportion of our county tax for the current year is nearly \$28,000. And, while upon this subject, I desire to call your attention to the action had by the

retiring city council, and which has my hearty approval:

Whereas, it is understood that a convention of the representatives of Merrimack county is soon to be called together to take into consideration the subject of erecting new buildings on the county farm, to take the place of those recently destroyed by fire,—therefore,

Resolved, By the city council of the city of Concord, in convention assembled, that the delegation from this city be requested to take into consideration the propriety of changing the laws of the State as to the settlement of paupers, so as to allow each city and town to provide for its own poor, and thus avoid the expenditure of a large sum to rebuild on our county farm; and that the city clerk forward to each representative of our city a copy of this resolution.

This preamble and resolution was passed without dissent.

The legislature, at the June session, 1877, provided for the appointment of “a board of commissioners, to examine and ascertain whether all classes of property are equally taxed, and to recommend a plan to relieve the towns and cities from what is known as the state tax.” The commission has been appointed, and has had the subject under consideration, but no conclusion can be reached that will affect the state tax for the present year.

WATER-WORKS.

I would direct your special attention to the Report of the Board of Water Commissioners, made to the city council, and printed in the Annual Report. A careful consideration of the facts therein set forth, I think, must convince every inhabitant of our city of

the wisdom and utility of inaugurating and carrying forward, to so successful a completion, an enterprise at once so important as a promoter of health, a source of comfort and convenience, and a means of prosperity. We have, it seems to me, but just begun to realize their great utility.

The business of the Board of Water Commissioners is managed with prudence and economy, no member of the Board, from first to last, having received a dollar for his services, or been reimbursed for money expended in the discharge of any duty imposed upon him.

SEWERS.

The general introduction of Long Pond water into the dwellings and business blocks of the city has made necessary the completion of the sewerage system commenced several years ago. It is estimated, by individuals experienced in such matters, that about \$6,000 additional appropriation would nearly or quite complete the whole system. I should be glad if we could, without detriment, pass this outlay for this year. I would recommend an early investigation into the condition of the locality south of West street, and beyond the southern terminus of what is known as the "Brook sewer," with a view to ascertaining if the sewage carried upon the low land is likely to endanger the health of the inhabitants, or

work damage to the land-owners. The Committee on Sewers for the past year say, in their report, that about 2,300 feet of 24 x 36-inch brick sewer will complete the sewerage system in that part of the city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The losses by fire during the past year have been \$4,800, as against \$65,340 in 1873. In two instances fire has occurred, and been confined to the buildings where it originated, which, with our old system of extinguishment, must in all probability have resulted in extensive conflagrations. Our supply of water is abundant, our hydrants and engines are powerful, and our engineers and firemen are as prudent and faithful as any city can boast. With such appliances for our protection, let us hope for less destruction of property by fire, and a decrease in insurance rates.

I am not aware of any need of the department that will require more than the ordinary outlay of maintenance. A telegraphic fire alarm, such as is in use in other cities, would no doubt add to the efficiency of the department in the more prompt determination of the location of fires; but I think you will not deem it advisable to undertake its introduction this year.

CITY FARM.

The report of the Committee on the City Farm shows that it is under good management, and accomplishing the purposes for which it is maintained. The

destruction by fire of the county alms-house, at North Boscawen, will be likely to throw back upon our hands quite a number of poor persons to be supported, for a while, at least, at the city farm. Should any action be taken by the county convention soon to assemble, or any legislation be had looking to a change in the present mode of supporting the poor, it may be found necessary to increase the accommodations for them at the city farm.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

By a recently enacted ordinance of the city council, all the highway districts of the city are consolidated, and placed under the management of one superintendent, "to be styled commissioner of highways," to be chosen annually by the city council.

I think our bridges are all in a serviceable condition, requiring little, if any, repairs, unless it should appear that the Free Bridge should require replanking.

CEMETERIES.

An ordinance, recently adopted by the city council, provides "that all money arising from the sale of lots in each cemetery shall be divided into two equal parts, and kept as two distinct funds for each cemetery,—one part to be appropriated to adding to, improving, and ornamenting the cemetery grounds, the other

part to constitute a permanent fund, * * * the income of which shall annually be paid over to the several committees, to be expended in the care, protection, and ornamentation of the several cemeteries from whence the fund originated."

Heretofore, one half of the proceeds of sales of lots has been applied to the payment of the principal and interest of the original purchase-money of the grounds. By the operation of the present ordinance, whatever remains unpaid of the original purchase becomes a debt, to be provided for by the city council.

CITY ORDINANCES.

The ordinances of the city have recently been revised, and are being printed in convenient form. The volume will contain, in addition to the ordinances, the city charter and amendments of the same, the general statutes relating to cities, rules and joint rules of the city council, and a list of the members thereof for twenty-five years.

CONCLUSION.

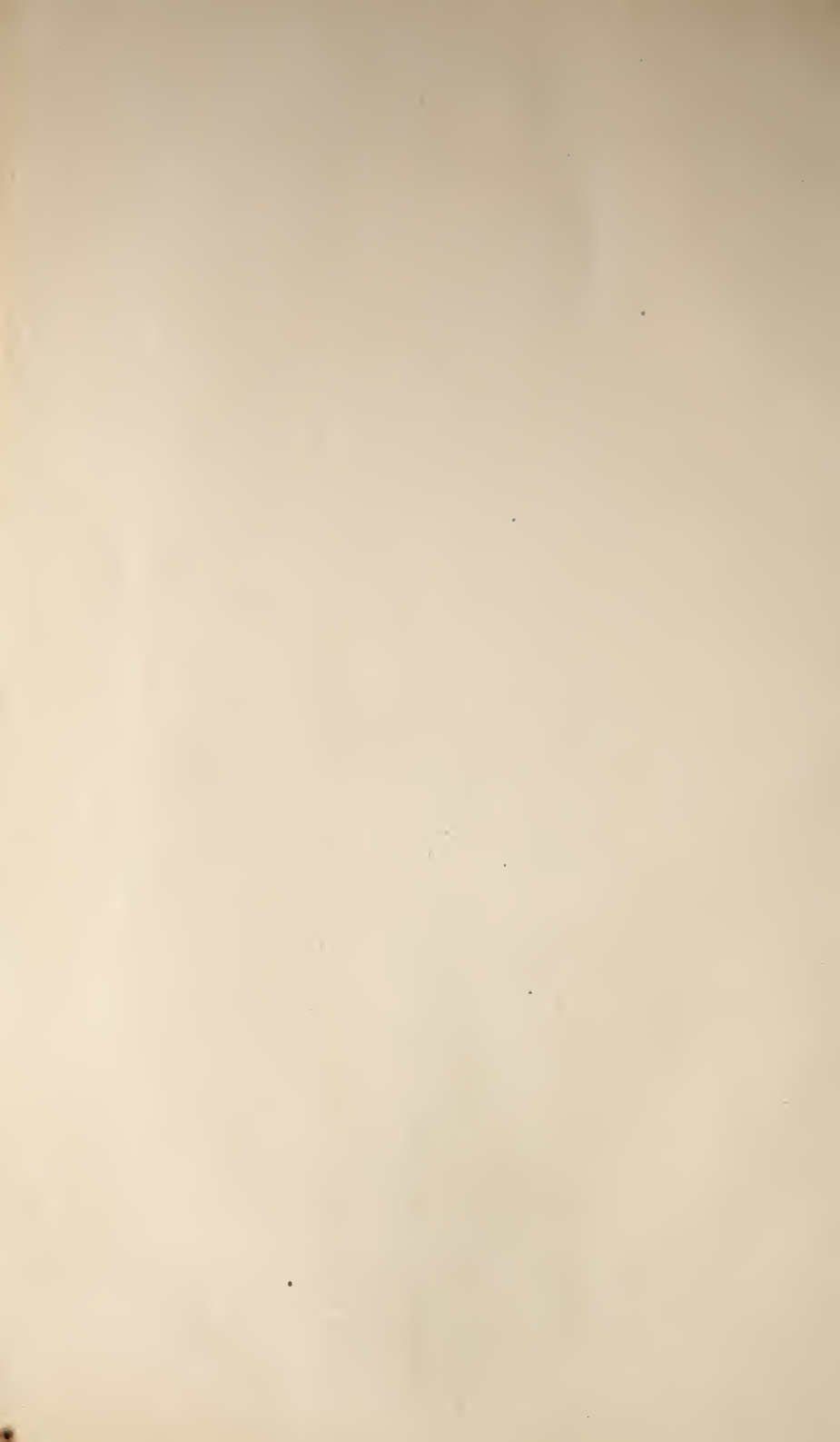
Gentlemen, I have thus briefly, and I know imperfectly, alluded to some of the questions and duties that will be presented for our action during the year before us. Others, not alluded to, will demand our consideration, and some, no doubt, that cannot be anticipated, will claim our prompt attention. We need,

perhaps, to be reminded that we are the servants, and the people our masters, and that they will expect in us fidelity and honor. We have voluntarily assumed these responsibilities. The full breadth and meaning of our obligations must be the measure of our duty.

* I cannot forbear to impress upon you the importance of avoiding the accumulation of debt, and of practising economy in all expenditures, however small. From each of you I ask advice and counsel, and desire that you will not hesitate to suggest anything that you may think will aid me in the discharge of my official duties.

With gratitude for the past, and with humble trust in the goodness of God for the future, let us enter with alacrity upon the duties before us, resolved that the best administration that we are able to give shall be the fruit of this year's labor.

HORACE A. BROWN.





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